

BOROUGH OF



GRAVESEND



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1957



H. S. DAVIES,
M.D., B.S.(LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957

THE MAYOR (Alderman R. H. GOODWIN, J.P.)

Councillor H. F. MARGRETT (*Chairman*)

Alderman MISS A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M. (*Vice-Chairman*)

Alderman A. G. RAMSAY

Alderman H. DAVIDSON

Alderman P. E. LINES

Alderman W. A. WYATT

Councillor J. W. ROBINSON

Councillor R. C. GURR

Councillor E. W. MASTIN

Councillor Mrs. N. Q. MILTON

Councillor C. H. SUTOR

Councillor G. C. SOUTHWELL

Councillor A. J. COLES

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Cork).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

*J. E. BAKER, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

*K. MCINTYRE, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

District Public Health Inspectors :

*J. WILCOCK, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.
(resigned September, 1957)

*K. V. SPROAT, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.
(one vacancy)

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

D. HITCHCOCK (appointed December, 1957)

Clerical Staff :

A. H. BAKER, Chief Clerk to Public Health Inspector.

Miss G. PUTTIFER.

Miss V. NEAVES, Clerk to Medical Officer.

Miss P. BENNETT.

NOTE :—*Hold Meat and Food Inspection Certificate.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WOODVILLE TERRACE,
GRAVESEND.

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of Gravesend for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population is now 46,930. The relatively high birth rate mentioned in my last report has been maintained, there being 793 live births registered. The crude birth rate for 1957 was 16.9 per 1,000 population, and the corrected birth rate 16.39 which compares with 16.0 for the "Smaller Towns" and 16.1 for England and Wales generally. The crude death rate per 1,000 population was 9.48, the corrected death rate 10.71 and this compares with 11.5 for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate was 13.87.

It will be remembered that in view of the increase in the death rate from cancer of the lung in England and Wales as a whole, I reported on the matter to the Health Committee and pointed out that there was the strongest statistical evidence showing that cigarette smoking was a major cause of lung cancer. I emphasised also that in men the liability to lung cancer increased with the number of cigarettes smoked, but there were of course other factors that played a part.

The Council has given careful thought to the question of atmospheric pollution. The monthly records obtained from instruments at the two collecting stations are summarised on page 9.

Rehousing has been an important concern of the Council. During 1957 the Corporation completed 67 houses.

We are very fortunate in Gravesend in having a number of voluntary organisations doing valuable and much needed work. There is, for example, the Gravesend Old People's Welfare Committee, the Social Club for the Hard of Hearing, the Tuberculosis Care Committee, the Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and the Gravesend and District Social Workers Association. A short note on two of these Societies will be found in this report.

In conclusion, may I express to the Chairman and to every member of the Health Committee my appreciation for the keen interest they have always shown in the work of the Health Department and for their unfailing support throughout the year. My thanks are due also to my staff for their continued enthusiasm and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area of the Borough (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population	..	..	..	..	..	46,930
Number of separate inhabited houses (at 31.3.58)	..	..	..	..	..	13,217
Rateable Value (at 31.3.58)	..	..	..	..	..	£610,710
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£2,418
Rates (to 31st March, 1958)—19s. 6d. in the £.						
Number of Dwelling Houses built during 1957—						

Corporation	Houses	67
	Flats	—
Private Enterprise	Houses	128
	Bungalows	46
		<hr/> 241 <hr/>

INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT.

The chief industries in the locality are—Paper making, cement, light and marine engineering, cable and telegraph works, printing. A number of men are employed in the Merchant Navy, on river craft, and in dock work.

Unemployment has remained at a low level, but statistics which apply only to the Borough are not available.

REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS.

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	403	351	754
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	19	20	39
Total live births	..	..	..	..	<hr/>422 <hr/>	<hr/> 371 <hr/>	<hr/> 793 <hr/>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population—16.90.

STILL BIRTHS.

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	11	16	27
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
					<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>

Still Birth Rate—i.e., Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—34.15
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population—0.60

REGISTERED DEATHS.—All causes at all ages—445.

<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
218	227	445

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population—9.48.
(The previous year it was 10.38)

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	2	2.44	

NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION (Excess of Births over Deaths) .. 348

INFANT DEATHS—under 1 year of age.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate Infants	..	..	..	7	4	11
Illegitimate Infants	..	..	..	—	—	—
				<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :—

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., All infants per 1,000 live births	..	13.87
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	14.58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	—

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

<i>Rates</i>	<i>Gravesend</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	160 “ <i>Smaller Towns</i> ” <i>population of 25,000 to 50,000</i>
Birth Rate	16.39	16.1	16.0
Death Rate	10.71	11.5	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate	13.87	23.1	23.5
Still Birth Rate	0.60	0.37	0.38

BOROUGH OF GRAVESEND

—

BIRTHS AND DEATHS
BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST TEN YEARS

	YEAR									
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number of births ..	830	751	760	702	767	767	768	773	788	793
Crude Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	19.35	17.36	17.16	15.85	16.95	16.85	16.71	16.66	16.53	16.90
Number of deaths ..	461	456	483	488	469	481	416	496	495	445
Crude Death rate (per 1,000 population)	10.75	10.54	10.91	11.02	10.36	10.56	9.05	10.69	10.38	9.48

CAUSES OF DEATH IN GRAVESEND FOR 1957

AS PROVIDED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	4	3	7
2.	Tuberculosis, Other forms	..	..	..	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	2	—	2
4.	Diphtheria..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	6	2	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	11	3	14
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast..	..	..	..	1	10	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	4	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	20	17	37
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	2	1	3
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	5	6
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	27	53	80
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	39	20	59
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	2	7	9
20.	Other heart disease..	..	..	..	34	34	68
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	3	12	15
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	3	5	8
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	10	7	17
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	12	11	23
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	5	2	7
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	1	2	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	2	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	2	2
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	18	18	36
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	4	1	5
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	4	4	8
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total—All causes					218	227	445

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1957.

DISEASE	Under one year	One and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and over	Total	Number Removed to Hospital
Measles ..	7	94	82	155	2	3	2	—	—	345	5
Whooping Cough ..	19	37	54	62	6	—	1	2	1	182	2
Pneumonia ..	2	1	1	2	3	2	4	4	2	21	2
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	3	18	7	—	1	—	—	29	1
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	10	7
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Typhoid Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	—	1	2	1	—	6	12	7	—	29	9
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	6	2
	29	137	143	239	19	16	27	17	3	630	35

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Measurement of Deposited Matter by Deposit Gauges. *Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Instruments.*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rainfall Inches</i>	<i>Insoluble Deposit (Tons per square mile)</i>	<i>Soluble Deposit</i>	<i>Total Solids</i>	<i>SO₃ (sulphur trioxide) collected per day (Milligrammes)</i>
DASHWOOD LANE NURSERIES.					
1957					
January	0.69	4.36	6.30	10.67	1.38
February	2.35	4.37	7.40	11.77	1.31
March	0.78	5.16	4.32	9.47	0.92
April	0.18	7.24	3.97	11.21	1.14
May	0.87	9.37	6.14	15.31	0.86
June	0.51	12.45	6.44	18.89	0.71
July	2.94	21.05	14.67	35.72	0.02
August	1.45	17.93	10.61	28.53	1.74
September	2.30	8.73	9.30	18.04	0.95
October	1.13	9.13	9.14	18.27	1.06
November	3.04	8.64	10.81	19.45	1.75
December	1.45	7.91	8.20	16.11	1.76
Mean	1.47	9.70	8.11	17.80	1.13
SWIMMING POOL.					
1957					
January	0.75	5.94	6.11	12.05	1.67
February	2.35	6.34	9.13	15.46	1.93
March	0.82	7.79	7.45	15.24	1.40
April	0.24	6.54	4.63	11.17	1.61
May	0.90	8.22	6.11	14.33	0.91
June	0.66	10.57	7.05	17.62	0.95
July	2.70	12.43	13.96	26.39	0.86
August	1.67	10.09	10.60	20.69	1.16
September	2.32	8.49	10.97	19.47	1.06
October	1.19	10.66	9.87	20.53	1.26
November	3.10	8.18	10.14	18.31	2.18
December	1.44	13.58	11.85	25.42	2.18
Mean	1.51	9.07	8.99	18.06	1.43

Further details will be found on pages 48, 49 and 50.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 18 doctors residing in the area who are engaged in general practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, Maidstone, for examination :—

A.	(1)	Swabs	—	Examination for Streptococci	..	..	58
	(2)	Faeces	—	Examination for Pathogenic Organisms	..	..	104
	(3)	Duck Eggs		„ „ „ „	..	..	4
Total							166
B.	(1)	Milk	—	Turbidity Test	..	..	4
	(2)	Water	—	Public Supplies—Bact. Examination	..	..	52
			—	Swimming Pool—	..	..	12
	(3)	Ice Cream		Bacteriological Examination	..	..	43
Total							111

3. COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Eleven ambulances (6 stretcher and 5 sitting cases) are stationed at the Harden V.C. Memorial Hall, Hall Road, Northfleet. Telephone—Gravesend 5257/8.

4. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The County Council provides a service free of charge for the attendance on persons whose doctors require them to be nursed in their own homes. In cases of chronic sickness in patients who are over 70 years of age, a night service is provided. The nurse's attendance is normally arranged by the doctor, but the name and address of the appropriate nurse for any particular district is obtainable from the under-mentioned District Office of the County Council :—

Arthur Street, Gravesend. (Tel. Gravesend 166).

The following services are provided by the County Council :—

5. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

- (1) Ante-Natal Clinics.
- (2) Infant Welfare Clinics.
- (3) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.
- (4) Dental Clinics.
- (5) Speech Therapy Clinics.

6. MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

There are six County Midwives serving the Gravesend area.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>
Miss L. M. J. Larner,	31 York Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 4111
Mrs. K. M. Polson,	15 Taunton Vale, Gravesend.	„ 4707
Miss L. M. Mills,	85 Whitehill Road, Gravesend.	„ 2980
Mrs. F. E. Dudley,	25 Arnold Road, Gravesend.	„ 5976
Miss W. M. Hunt,	77 Dickens Road, Gravesend.	„ 4166
Miss M. A. G. Gaskell	„ „ „ „	„ „

7. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This is a County Service giving domestic help to old people, maternity patients and persons suffering from illness, and other cases of emergency. Application is made to the District Office, Arthur Street, Telephone No.—Gravesend 166.

CHEST CLINIC—(South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board).

The Chest Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC—(South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board).

Dr. C. D. Routh is in attendance at the Gravesend Clinic, 22 Cobham Street, at the following times :—

Tuesday

Male	—	11.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.
Female	—	1.0 p.m. to 2.0 p.m.

Saturday

Male and Female — 9.0 a.m. to 10.0 a.m.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL.

The Out-patient Clinics at the Hospital are as follows :—

MONDAY

9.15 a.m.	Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic	*Mr. Golding-Wood
9.30 a.m.	Medical	*Dr. J. Craig
1.30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Dr. M. F. McDonnell
1.45 p.m.	Paediatric	*Dr. Fisher

TUESDAY

9.0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9.30 a.m.	Skin Clinic	*Dr. Cairns
9.30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons
10.30 a.m.	Ophthalmic (new cases)	*Mr. Ormrod
11.30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. M. Landau
12.30 p.m.	Physical Medicine	*Dr. Hart
3.0 p.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Mr. A. M. Hunter
4.0 p.m.	Gynaecological Clinic	Mr. A. M. Hunter
4.0 p.m.	Chest Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson

WEDNESDAY

9.0 a.m.	Chest Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson
9.30 a.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. B. E. C. Stanley
2.30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic (old cases)	**Dr. Kowalewski
3.0 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	**Dr. S. W. Hardwick
6.0 p.m.	Refill Clinic	*Dr. H. J. Robinson

THURSDAY

9.30 a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic	*Mr. R. H. V. Hafner
9.30 a.m.	Chest Clinic (Refills)	*Dr. H. J. Robinson
9.30 a.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (old cases)	*Mr. G. L. Simmons
1.30 p.m.	Ophthalmic Clinic (K.C.C.)	Mr. G. L. Simmons
2.30 p.m.	Medical	*Dr. J. Craig

FRIDAY

9.0 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
9.30 a.m.	Gynaecological Clinic	Mr. Hamilton
10.15 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	*Mr. R. H. V. Hafner
2.30 p.m.	Surgical Clinic	*Mr. Sol. M. Cohen
2.30 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic (old cases)	**Dr. Kowalewski

SATURDAY

9.30 a.m.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Mr. Hamilton
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*By appointment.

**By appointment with Almoner.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the administrative arrangements for the Maternity and Child Welfare Services passed from the Borough Council to the Kent County Council.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Notification of births are sent direct to the County Medical Officer at Maidstone.

The number of live and still births occurring in Gravesend during the year was 781. After correction for those whose usual residence is elsewhere (i.e., 133 transferred "out" and 173 transferred "in") the number properly belonging to the Borough was 821 (793 live births and 28 still births) compared with 808 in the previous year.

PARTICULARS OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN GRAVESEND.

Total No. of live and still births occurring in Gravesend	..	781
No. of live births actually belonging to Gravesend..	..	626
No. of still births actually belonging to Gravesend	..	22
No. of live births (non-residents)	.. ..	129
No. of still births (non-residents)	.. ..	4
	—	781

NO. OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN HOSPITAL.

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
No. of infants born in Hospital—(residents)	.. 318	20
No. of infants born in Hospital—(non-residents)	.. 129	4

HEALTH VISITORS.

Nurses with special qualifications are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The following Health Visitors are employed in the Gravesend area and can be contacted at their respective welfare centres :—

Miss M. C. Craddock, S.R.N., S.C.M., Windmill Street Welfare Centre.
 Mrs. E. O. Curling, S.R.N., S.C.M., Windmill Street Welfare Centre.
 Miss D. J. Gann, S.R.N., S.C.M., Whitehill Welfare Centre.
 Miss E. M. Kenworthy, S.R.N., S.C.M., Whitehill Welfare Centre.
 Miss C. James, S.R.N., S.C.M., "The Nest," Welfare Centre.

PREMATURE INFANTS.

Premature infants nursed at home are visited regularly by the Midwives and Health Visitors.

The following special equipment is available for loan at the Welfare Centres :—

Draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable warm clothing, hot water bottles, special feeding bottles, thermometer, mucus catheter, etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The three Welfare Centres in the Borough are Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King's Farm Estate), and "The Nest" (Denton and Chalk district).

The sessions are as follows :—

	<i>Windmill Street. Afternoon</i>	<i>Whitehill. Afternoon</i>	<i>"The Nest"</i>
MONDAY	Child Welfare Clinic— Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccinations ; Health Visitors Con- sultations ; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consulta- tions; Baby weighing; Sale of Foods, etc.	—
TUESDAY	—	<i>Afternoon</i> Ante - Natal Clinic and Midwives' Clinic combined.	<i>Morning and Afternoon</i> Speech Therapy Clinic.
WEDNESDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Midwives' Clinic.	—	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.
THURSDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Ante-Natal Clinic.	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	—
FRIDAY	<i>Afternoon</i> Child Welfare Clinic— Medical Officer in attendance ; Health Visitors Consultations; Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	—	<i>Afternoon</i> *Ante-Natal Clinic. Midwives' Clinic.

*First and third Fridays in each month.

ATTENDANCE AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The attendances at the three Welfare Centres during the year were :—

(a)	Individual children under 1 year of age	..	..	595
(b)	Individual children between 1 and 5 years	..	..	936
(c)	Total number of attendances of all children under 5 years			12,746

For the year 1956 the figures were :—

(a)	570	(b)	1,387	(c)	12,635
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LADIES' VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE.

The Ladies' Voluntary Committee continue to serve at the three Welfare Centres in the town and their work is greatly appreciated.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-Natal clinics are held once a week at Windmill Street and Whitehill Welfare Centres and once a fortnight at "The Nest" Welfare Centre. A lady doctor is in attendance at each session.

In all, 230 expectant mothers attended the clinics. The total attendances for the year were 449.

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC.

Married women requiring advice are referred to the Gynaecological Clinic at Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, by their private medical practitioners. This clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 4 p.m.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, children under five years and school children is provided at the Dental Clinic, Manor Road.

The clinic is open at the following times :—

Monday	A.M. 9.0 to 10.30
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	A.M. 9.0 to 12 noon P.M. 1.30 to 4.0
Friday	A.M. 9.0 to 10.30

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

The County Ophthalmic Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital. Further details on page 12.

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS—SCHOOL CHILDREN.

These clinics are held at the following times :—

Windmill Street	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
"The Nest," Denton	Tuesday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Whitehill, King's Farm	Tuesday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF NURSING HOMES.

One home for Medical Cases, chiefly old people—ten beds. This home is supervised by the Kent County Council under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF UNREGISTERED HOMES.

1. The Returns from the local Registrar are examined to check the addresses at which births and deaths occur.
2. Health Visitors and the staff are asked to keep a look out for unregistered homes.

MORAL WELFARE—CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

This work is now a function of the Kent County Council. Kendall House, Pelham Road, Gravesend, opened in 1946 by the Rochester Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, has an experienced Church Army Sister in charge. A representative of the Council serves on the Moral Welfare Committee and a grant was made to the Association from the funds available under the Sunday Entertainments Act, 1932.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The Gravesend and District Old People's Welfare Committee have always realised the value of home visiting. They have found that much can be done to relieve the loneliness of old people and to help them to maintain a brighter outlook. This is especially true in the case of many who rarely feel well enough to go out by themselves. The home visitors also make recommendations in regard to the coach outings mentioned in my last report. Two thousand old people from Gravesend, Northfleet and Shorne, have enjoyed visits to the seaside and to the country. There is a rota of eight volunteer drivers for the coach.

The meals-on-wheels service has continued successfully. The chiropody service has been extended. It is hoped to have another "Old People's Week" at an early date. Many of the elderly have been referred to the Geriatric specialist who arranges for occupational therapy in suitable cases.

There can be no doubt that work of great value has been done and I cannot speak too highly of this Committee.

THE GRAVESEND AND DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE HARD OF HEARING.

The work of this organisation was described in my last report in which reference was made to the importance of the lip-reading classes held at the Gravesend Technical College. It was emphasised also that the social club for the hard of hearing brought renewed integration with the community to a group of people suffering from a difficult handicap. There has been an interesting social programme including a number of lectures, a ballet display, a hobbies exhibition and visits to places of interest.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47, and

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

All cases were dealt with successfully by persuasion, and it was not necessary to make use of the above legislation.

SANITARY INSPECTION, HOUSING AND FOOD.

Mr. J. E. Baker, Chief Public Health Inspector, has supplied the statistics relating to Sanitary Inspection, Housing and Food Inspection.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

PUBLIC DRINKING SUPPLIES.

The Medway Water Board supply water to the Borough.

The water has been satisfactory—

(a) in quantity. (b) in quality.

The water is hard and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action.

Twelve dwelling houses are supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. In the remainder of the Borough the supply is direct to houses. The twelve houses in question are scheduled for demolition procedure.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Fifty-two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and were all reported to be satisfactory with the exception of one from Leith Park Road well. They were taken from the following sources:—

Leith Park Road Pumping Station—well (untreated)	..	..	13
„ „ „ „ „ —reservoir (treated)	..	..	13
Domestic supplies	..	..	24
Drinking fountains	..	..	2
			<hr/> 52

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

Two samples (one from Leith Park Road well and one from the reservoir) were taken for chemical analysis and were reported to be satisfactory.

Note : Tabulated summaries of all water samples taken and results of examination are shown on pages 44, 45, 46 and 47.

CORPORATION BATHING POOL.

The Open-air Bathing Pool opened in 1938 has accommodation for 1,200 bathers. The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards :— 1 metre fixed ; 1 metre spring ; 3 metre fixed ; 3 metre spring ; and a 5 metre fixed and a chute.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pool are filtered, aerated and sterilised.

Wide surrounds and large areas are provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectators' terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Cafe and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

There is also a Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet, with its own surround, separated from the main pool by a terrace.

During the 1957 season the following persons used the Pools :—

Bathers and Spectators	..	..	..	..	..	90,044
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	23,471
Season Pass	..	..	..	..	..	7,011
Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	3,929
H.M. Forces	..	..	..	..	..	1,845
						<hr/> 126,300 <hr/>

HYGIENIC ARRANGEMENTS.

The Medical Officer of Health has continued to keep the hygienic arrangements at the Pool under supervision. "Breakpoint Chlorination," which was put into operation in 1948 appears to be working efficiently.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Twelve examinations were made. See tabulated summary on page 47.

SLIPPER BATHS.

The Slipper Baths at the Corporation Bathing Pool were opened in January, 1949.

There are separate sections for males and females—7 baths being allocated to males and 3 to females.

This service is working very satisfactorily and is much appreciated by the residents of the town. The attendances for the year 1957 were as follows :—

Males	..	..	14,085
Females	..	..	2,571
			<hr/> 16,656 <hr/>

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Council has the duty to enforce certain provisions of Parts I, IV and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Administrative arrangements include the following :—

Part I—Health (General Provisions).

- (1) Registration of all factories.
- (2) Inspection of sanitary conveniences in all factories.
- (3) Inspection with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Part IV—Basement Bakehouses.

- (1) The quinquennial examination of basement bakehouses and the renewal or cancellation of Certificates of Suitability.

Part VIII—Home work.

- (1) Examination of lists, supplied to the Council by employers of outworkers in certain specified trades.
- (2) Notification of name and place of employment of any home worker employed outside the Borough to the Council in whose district his employment is situated.
- (3) Inspection of premises in which the outworker pursues his occupation.

The provisions of the Act, so far as they effect local authorities, have been enforced. The following table shows the work carried out :—

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health:—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
			<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Verbal Notices</i>	<i>Notices Complied with</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	33	19	—	1	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	117	73	1	3	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers premises) ..	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>150</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found.</i>		<i>Referred To H.M. By H.M.</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</i>
	<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>Inspector.</i>	<i>Inspector.</i>	
Want of cleanliness ..	3	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :—					
(a) insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	2	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	7	4	—	2	—

1. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend Council 1957 (under 1 (c) of Sec. 110 Factories Act 1937)	7
2. Total number of outworkers notified by Gravesend Council to other Councils (under 2 of Sec. 110 Factories Act 1937)	1
3. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend by other Councils ..	7
4. Total number of outworkers employed in Gravesend	13
5. Total number of inspections of work places (under 111 (1) Factories Act 1937)	10
6. List of scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Gravesend :—	
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	13

BASEMENT BAKEHOUSES.

Part IV of the Act.

Certificates of Suitability are in operation in respect of four basement bakehouses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Dwelling house inspections	..	..	..	..	..	1,199
„ „ re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	1,442
Visits to other premises :—						
Atmospheric pollution sites	..	..	..	..	..	32
Factories (with power)	..	..	..	..	..	73
Factories (without power)	..	..	..	..	..	19
Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	1,560
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	176
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	10
Pet shops	..	..	..	..	..	7
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	2
Places of entertainment	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public conveniences and urinals	..	..	..	..	..	73
Rodent destruction	..	..	..	..	..	2,470
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	4
Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	212
Stables	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tents, vans, sheds	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke abatement	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	1,582
Meat and Food inspection visits :—						
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	69
Meat depots	..	..	..	..	..	55
Shops and other premises	..	..	..	..	..	162
Total visits of all kinds	..	..	..	..	..	9,157

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

					<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
(1) In respect of dwelling houses :—						
Number served	..	..	..	..	490	42
Complied with (a) by owners or occupiers	..	..	..	..	445	35
(b) by Local Authority in default					—	6
(2) In respect of other premises :—						
Number served	..	..	..	..	39	—
Complied with	..	..	..	..	45	—

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	281
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	31
Cesspools—covers provided	..	..	..	..	..	5
—disused and filled in	..	..	..	..	..	3
—repaired	..	..	..	..	..	4

Chimney stacks—repaired	9
new pots provided	5
Dampness—damp wallplaster removed and re-instated	14
external walls repaired	14
external walls repointed	13
external walls rendered	6
guttering repaired or renewed	34
roofs repaired	56
rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	12
sub-floor ventilation provided	2
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	8
Dirty houses cleansed by tenants	4
Dirty persons cleansed	1
Disinfestation of premises for vermin	5
Drainage—drains repaired	10
—drains wholly relaid	10
partly relaid	21
unstopped	51
inspection chambers provided or repaired	9
soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	13
gullies and grids provided or repaired	10
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	7
Floors repaired or relaid	11
Paving relaid or repaired	7
Sinks, new provided	2
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired	9
Stoves renewed or repaired	5
Staircases repaired	6
Smoke nuisances abated	2
Walls repaired	31
Wash-houses repaired	1
Water pipes, etc. repaired	4
Water closets—repaired or cleansed	14
—new constructed	1
new pans	13
unstopped or cleansed	12
cisterns repaired or new provided	25
seats renewed or repaired	10
Windows renewed or repaired	12
sashcords provided	23
sash weights provided or adjusted	2
sills renewed or repaired	12
Other matters	25

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act. These duties include the following :—

1. The inspection and registration of premises where filling materials are used in activities laid down in the Act.
2. The inspection and licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.
3. The inspection of records to be kept under the Act.
4. Where considered necessary the taking and testing of samples of filling materials.

The Act is intended to provide a comprehensive measure for the adequate control of the manufacture and use of filling materials and to ensure that high standards of cleanliness are maintained.

Two premises are registered within the district and these have been kept under supervision.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

It is the duty of the Council to enforce the provisions of this Act.

The Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of pet shops, the main purpose being the enforcement of the Protection of Animals Act in their application to the business of selling pets.

Four premises are licensed within the district and these have been kept under supervision.

CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

There are still approximately 750 premises in the Eastern and Southern parts of the Borough where the drainage discharges into cesspools.

The Health Department is responsible for this work but the actual emptying of cesspools is carried out on behalf of the Department by the Borough Engineer's Department, a combined road gully and cesspool emptying machine being used for the purpose.

During the year, 11,900 tons of sewage were removed, requiring 919 emptyings, compared with 11,476 tons requiring 876 emptyings during the previous year.

Approximately 16 pails are in use in the Borough, of these 8 are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

(a) COLLECTION.

Ten Shelvoke & Drewry freighters are used for this service. These include two 16-18 cu. yd. capacity "Fore and Aft" tipping freighters, which replaced two of the smaller type vehicles.

One of the vehicles is also used for the collection of trade refuse from business establishments; collections being made more frequently than in the case of ordinary domestic refuse.

Refuse collected during the year amounted to 13,463 tons, compared with 13,754 tons the previous year, these amounts being ascertained by test weighing.

(b) DISPOSAL.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. During the year agreement was reached with Northfleet Urban District Council for the joint use by the two authorities of a licensed chalk pit in Vale Road, Northfleet for refuse disposal purposes. The tip is operated by the Northfleet Council and the cost is borne by each authority on a proportionate basis, according to population.

Part tipping commenced at the Northfleet tip on 22nd August, 1957, and full tipping from 18th September, 1957.

Prior to these dates all refuse was tipped on land at Denton marshes. This tip was in use from 8th March, 1944, to 17th September, 1957, and during this period 81,877 loads of house refuse weighing approximately 159,625 tons were tipped.

SALVAGE.

An Austin truck is used for the separate collection of waste paper.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows :—

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	456	9	2	0	3,742	11	1
Metals	8	6	1	2	43	13	5
Textiles and string		18	3	21	10	13	8
	465	14	2	23	£3,796	18	4

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Disinfection of rooms and bedding where necessary for the prevention of infectious diseases was carried out at 45 premises.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Health Department is responsible for the staffing and cleansing of public conveniences in the Borough and the collection of receipts therefrom.

One underground convenience, with male and female sections is situated in Parrock Street and includes washing facilities. Male and female attendants are employed at this convenience.

One convenience for females, provided with attendants and washing facilities is situated on the Gordon Promenade, but is only open during the summer months.

One convenience for females and one for males are situated in Fort Gardens. An attendant is employed at the females' convenience during entertainments in the summer.

Other small public conveniences, 8 for men, 3 for women and 2 for children, are situated in various parts of the Borough. These are without washing facilities or attendants.

Conveniences at 13 licensed premises are also cleansed by Health Department employees in consideration of the fact that they are available for the use of the general public at all times.

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision.

RODENT CONTROL.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, it is the duty of the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice, and in particular :—

- (a) From time to time to carry out such inspections as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid ;
- (b) to destroy rats and mice on land of which they are the occupier and otherwise to keep such land as far as practicable free from rats and mice ;
- (c) to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land under the following provisions of this part of this Act, and to carry out such operations as are authorised by those provisions.

All infested premises notified to the Health Department or discovered during the course of inspection during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfestation at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at dwelling houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out by the Rodent Officer during the year 1957 :—

Infested premises under treatment at the end of 1956	..	..	18
Premises found to be infested during 1957	..	..	274
Premises treated and cleared	..	..	272
Premises still under observation at the end of the year	..	..	20
Total number of visits	..	..	2,145

SECTION "D"

HOUSING.

There has been steady progress in the work of rehousing which is of such importance for the public health.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information :—

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1957.

By Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
							<hr/> 195 <hr/>
No. contemplated 1958—140							
No. contemplated 1959— 56							

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DURING 1957 :—

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
							<hr/> 174 <hr/>

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

(1) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,110
(2) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,467
(3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(4) Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	..	178

2. Remedy of defects :—

(1) After informal action by Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	139
(2) After formal notice under Public Health Acts :—							
(a) by owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

3. Demolition and Closure Procedure :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal procedure	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(5) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 AND RENT ACT, 1957:—

Part 1—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair :

(1) Number of applications for certificates	..	..	..	23
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	..	..	..	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates—				
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	..	..	..	11
(b) in respect of all defects	..	..	..	12
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords	..	..	..	13
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority	..	..	..	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	..	..	..	3

Part II—Application for Cancellation of Certificates :

(7) Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates				1
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	..	..	..	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection				Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	..	..	..	1

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS :—

Dustbins provided as a result of :—

(a) Informal action by Local Authority	..	..	..	259
(b) Formal action (1) by owners or occupiers	..	..	..	16
(2) by Local Authority in default	..	..	..	6

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Visits have been made to all premises reported as being overcrowded or as being otherwise unsuitable for the health of the occupants. The following is a summary of the action taken and subsequent results, since 1945 :—

	1945 to 1956	1957	Total
1. Reported to Housing Department as—			
(a) Overcrowded	213	3	216
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	208	6	214
2. Reported to other authorities as—			
(a) Overcrowded	3	—	3
(b) Not overcrowded but otherwise unsuitable	7	1	8
(c) Not overcrowded or otherwise unsuitable	3	—	3
3. Inspected but no action considered necessary	208	9	217
4. Conditions found on re-inspection to have been abated at—			
(a) Overcrowded premises	185	1	186
(b) Premises where conditions were otherwise unsuitable	154	5	159

Included in No. 4 were 63 cases where members of the families concerned were suffering from tuberculosis and 10 from other illness.

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of food premises is being maintained, and the following is a summary of the visits made and the results of inspection :—

			<i>No. of premises</i>	<i>No. of visits</i>	<i>Number of notices Served. Complied with.</i>	
Bakehouses	..	..	13	25	—	1
Butchers	..	..	29	165	7	5
Cake and bread shops	..	..	20	23	2	3
Canteens	..	..	29	41	—	6
Catering premises	..	..	47	142	4	6
Confectioners	..	..	44	76	1	2
Cooked meat shops	..	..	26	33	—	—
Dairies and milkshops	..	..	76	131	—	—
Licensed premises	..	..	95	77	1	2
Fish-frying establishments	..	..	17	33	—	—
Fishmongers	..	..	10	64	—	1
Greengrocers	..	..	50	263	6	7
Ice cream premises	..	..	135	156	—	—
Provision dealers	..	..	111	331	10	9
			702	1,560	31	42

Note.—Where premises carry on more than one type of business they are recorded under each appropriate type.

Forty-nine premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, and 17 for the preparation and sale of fried fish.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are no dairy farms in the Borough. Dairies other than dairy farms and milk distributors are registered by local authorities and there are now on the register 2 dairies and 74 distributors.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

One hundred and seventy-one samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and the following is an analysis of the results obtained :—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>		<i>Results.</i>	
Pasteurised	120	Methylene Blue Test	Satisfactory	73
			Unsatisfactory	0
		Phosphatase Test	Satisfactory	47
			Unsatisfactory	0

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>		<i>Results.</i>	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	47	Methylene Blue Test	Satisfactory	24
			Unsatisfactory	0
		Phosphatase Test	Satisfactory	23
			Unsatisfactory	0
Sterilised	4	Turbidity Test	Satisfactory	4
			Unsatisfactory	0

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1954.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1953.

Licences issued under these Regulations were as follows :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ”	Dealer’s Licences	6
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	4
“ Pasteurised ”	Pasteuriser’s Licences	2
	Dealer’s Licences	19
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	5
“ Sterilised ”	Dealer’s Licences	70
	Dealer’s Supplementary Licences	3

ICE CREAM.

One hundred and thirty-four premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream, and one for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. One hundred and fifty-six inspections were made in 1957.

Forty-three samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

	<i>Number of Samples</i>
Grade 1	35
Grade 2	8
Grade 3	—
Grade 4	—
	<hr/>
	43
	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 69.

The provisions of the slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to 1954 relating to humane

slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 11.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed		41	31	3	1263	756	—
Number inspected		41	31	3	1263	756	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>							
Whole carcases condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..		4	1	—	56	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci		9.76	3.23	—	4.43	0.93	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>							
Whole carcases condemned ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..		1	2	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis		2.44	6.45	—	—	0.40	—
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..		—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—

CONDEMNED FOOD.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- (a) *As a result of inspection at Slaughterhouse—*
 - 2 Bovine heads and tongues (tuberculosis)
 - 1 Bovine lungs (tuberculosis)
 - 2 Bovine livers (flukes)
 - 2 Part bovine livers (flukes)
 - 1 Bovine liver (abscess)
 - 1 Bovine lungs (flukes)
 - 3 Pigs' heads and tongues (tuberculosis)
 - 4 Pigs' livers (milk spots)

1 Sheep part carcase (abscesses)
13 Sheeps' livers (flukes)
23 Sheeps' livers (parasitic)
14 Sheeps' lungs (parasitic)
5 Sheeps' lungs (pneumonia and parasitic)
1 Sheep's lungs (pneumonia)
Total weight 362 lbs.

(b) *Other cascase meat and offal—*

	lbs.		lbs.
Beef (unsound)	126	Pork (unsound)	22
Beef (bruised)	82	Pork (bruised)	15
Beef (bone taint)	60	Pigs' liver (unsound)	38
Ox liver (unsound)	95	Pigs' kidney (unsound)	42
Sweetbreads (unsound)	2		
Total weight 482 lbs.			

(c) *Miscellaneous (unsound)—*

	lbs.		lbs.
Cheese	73	Jellies	2
Margarine	1	Cake mixture	1
Cereals	3		
Total weight 80 lbs.			

(d) *Tinned and bottled foods (unsound)—*

	lbs.		lbs.
Meats	2,298	Soup	106
Fish	133	Milk	1,031
Vegetables	955	Cream	23
Fruit	1,726	Miscellaneous	111
Total weight 6383 lbs.			

TOTAL APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS :—

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.
Carcase meat and offal		7	2	4
Miscellaneous			2	24
Tinned and bottled foods	2	16	3	27
	3	5	0	27

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Where possible, condemned food was used for animal feeding, otherwise it was buried at the Council's refuse tip.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and submitted to the Public Analyst were as follows:—

	<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Informal.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
Blancmange powder		2	2	
Brisling		1	1	
Butter	3		3	
Cake mixture		1	1	

			<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Adulterated</i>
Cakes	..	..	3	3	6	
Cheese	..	..	2		2	
Citrus peel	..	..		1	1	
Coffee	..	..	1		1	
Condensed milk		..		1	1	
Crab (dressed)	..	..		1	1	
Cream	..	..		1	1	
Custard powder		..	1		1	
Dripping	..	..	1		1	
Evaporated milk		..		1	1	
Fish paste	..	..		3	3	
Flour	..	..		2	2	
Fruit cordial	..	..		1	1	
Ground ginger		..		1	1	
Ice cream	..	..		4	4	
Jam	..	..	1	2	3	
Jelly	..	..		3	3	
Lard	..	..	3		3	
Malt vinegar	..	..		1	1	
Margarine	..	..	2		2	
Marmalade	..	..	1		1	
Meat paste	..	..	1	2	3	
Milk	..	..	45	2	47	
Minced beef	..	..	2		2	
Mincemeat	..	..	2		2	
Nutmeg	..	..		1	1	
Pepper	..	..		1	1	
Pilchards	..	..		1	1	
Pork pie	..	..	1	1	2	
Pork roll	..	..		2	2	
Raising powder		..		1	1	
Rolls and butter		..		5	5	
Roll, butter and cheese		..		1	1	
Sandwich spread	..	..	1		1	
Sardines	..	..		1	1	
Sauce	..	..		1	1	
Sausage roll	..	..		1	1	
Sausages	..	..	7		5	2
Saveloys	..	..	1		1	
Soup powder	..	..		3	3	
Spice	..	..		1	1	
Suet	..	..	2		2	
Sultanas	..	..		1	1	
Sweets	..	..		1		1
Tea	..	..	1		1	
Tomato ketchup		..		1	1	
Tomatoes (tinned)	..	..		2	2	
			<hr/> 81 <hr/>	<hr/> 58 <hr/>	<hr/> 136 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

PARTICULARS OF ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Sample No. 88.

A sample of peppermint rock contained an excess of Rhodamine B. colouring matter. The matter was taken up with the manufacturers by the local authority in whose area the rock had been purchased.

Sample Nos. 145 and 147.

Two sample of sausages contained preservative which had not been declared and therefore did not comply with the Preservative Regulations. A letter of caution was sent to the manufacturer.

Sample No. 160.

A sample of ground ginger, although not adulterated, was reported to be of old stock and short in weight. The trader concerned agreed to withdraw from sale the remainder of his stock.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

Five licences to operate plant and equipment for the boiling of waste foods were issued.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND "OTHER DISEASES."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifiable infectious diseases were recorded :—

Measles	345
Whooping Cough	182
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	29
Non-Respiratory	6
Pneumonia	21
Scarlet Fever	29
Erysipelas	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	10
Dysentery	1
Typhoid Fever	1
Food Poisoning	2
Meningococcal Infection	3
Total ..	<hr/> 630 <hr/>

A table showing other particulars is given on page 8.

There were no cases of Smallpox or Diphtheria.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Patients needing institutional accommodation for treatment or isolation were sent to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

Other arrangements include the following :—

- (a) Ophthalmic Neonatorum—Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) Smallpox—The River Hospital (Long Reach) Dartford.
- (c) Tuberculosis—Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, and other hospitals and sanatoria arranged by the Chest Physicians.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This work is under the control of the Kent County Council and the following arrangements are in operation :—

1. Immunisations are carried out at special sessions at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics.
2. Immunisations on behalf of the Local Health Authority are carried out by General Practitioners at their surgeries.
3. Notices are sent to every infant at the age of 8 months.

4. The Health Visitors follow up all cases in which there is no record of the injections having been given.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Borough who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1957:—

<i>Year of Birth.</i>	<i>Primary Inoculation.</i>	<i>Re-inforcing Inoculations.</i>
1957	41	—
1956	303	—
1955	68	—
1954	29	—
1953	11	15
1952	12	126
1951	29	113
1950	2	19
1949	9	24
1948	60	311
1947	7	15
1946	32	15
1945	—	1
1944	—	—
1943	—	1
	<hr/> 603	<hr/> 640

The following table shows the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

<i>Year of Birth.</i>	<i>Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)</i>	
	<i>1953-1957.</i>	<i>1952 or earlier.</i>
1943	24	339
1944	12	353
1945	28	362
1946	97	371
1947	671	234
1948	564	116
1949	256	335
1950	292	291
1951	383	228
1952	483	25
1953	493	—
1954	499	—
1955	452	—
1956	341	—
1957	41	—
	<hr/> 4,636	<hr/> 2,654

SMALLPOX PREVENTION.

Vaccination.

When the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation the Vaccination Acts were repealed and infant vaccination ceased to be compulsory.

The following is a return of the number of persons who were vaccinated against small pox during the year ended 31st December, 1957:—

<i>Year of Birth.</i>	<i>Primary Vaccination.</i>	<i>Re-Vaccination.</i>
1957	243	—
1956	185	—
1955	14	—
1954	13	1
1953	16	—
1952	8	4
1951	1	8
1950	5	—
1949	2	4
1948	2	3
1947	3	4
1946	—	3
1945	2	2
1944	3	3
1943	2	3
Before 1943	25	73
	<hr/> 524 <hr/>	<hr/> 108 <hr/>

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

The following table gives the numbers of children resident in the Borough who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957:—

<i>Year of Birth .</i>					
1947	..	..	..	..	272
1948	..	..	..	..	218
1949	..	..	..	..	213
1950	..	..	..	..	177
1951	..	..	..	..	57
1952	..	..	..	..	48
1953	..	..	..	..	48
1954	..	..	..	..	44
1955	..	..	..	..	2
1956	..	..	..	..	—
1957	..	..	..	..	—
					<hr/> 1,079 <hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

Close co-operation has been maintained between the Health Department and the Chest Physicians.

Diagnosis.

The Chest Clinic is provided at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital where patients are seen every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

We were fortunate in having a third visit from the Mass Radiography Unit during 1957. The campaign was opened by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman W. A. Wyatt, J.P., on the 15th February, 1957.

Dr. G. Rees Jones, the Director, Mass Radiography Service, has kindly supplied the following statistics:—

Christchurch Parish Hall, Central Avenue.

6th-14th March, 1957, inclusive.

Number of Volunteers :—

Males	720
Females	1,048
	<hr/>
	1,768
	<hr/>

Results :—

Active tuberculosis—

Males 1

Females —

1

Inactive tuberculosis—

Males 7

Females 11

18

Corporation Bathing Pool, Ordnance Road.

26th March—15th April, 1957, inclusive.

Number of Volunteers :—

Males	1,750
Females	2,451
	<hr/>
	4,201
	<hr/>

Results :—

Active tuberculosis—

Males 3

Females 4

7

Inactive tuberculosis—

Males 9

Females 27

36

Carcinoma of the lung—Male 2.

St. Aidan's Church Hall, St. Aidan's Way,
 24th—30th April, 1957, inclusive.

Number of Volunteers :—

Males	351
Females	606
	<hr/>
	957
	<hr/>

Results :—

Active tuberculosis—		Inactive tuberculosis—	
Males	—	Males	4
Females	3	Females	5
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	3		9
	<hr/>		<hr/>

It will be noted that the statistics included in this report apply only to volunteers from the general public and small business establishments. The results of an extensive survey covering senior school children, teaching and non-teaching staff and particulars of examinations in factories in the district, have not been included.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

In 1957, 35 fresh cases were notified. The following table gives comparative particulars over the last ten years :—

Year.	<i>Estimated Population of Registrar General.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Non- Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1948	42,890	48	7	55
1949	43,250	82	10	92
1950	44,290	65	9	74
1951	44,280	54	1	55
1952	45,260	77	3	80
1953	45,530	48	3	51
1954	45,960	57	6	63
1955	46,390	36	3	39
1956	47,670	31	5	36
1957	46,930	29	6	35

The sources from which the notifications of tuberculosis were received :—

Chest Physicians	..	25
Private Medical Practitioners	..	4
Hospitals and Institutions	..	6

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of our 35 new cases :—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0-1	—	—	—	—
1-5	1	2	—	—
5-10	1	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	1
15-20	1	—	—	—
20-25	1	4	—	—
25-35	3	4	1	—
35-45	3	2	—	—
45-55	3	—	1	1
55-65	3	1	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3

OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS.

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Bus Conductress	..	..	..	..	—	1
Buyer	..	..	..	..	1	—
Cement Loader	..	..	..	..	1	—
Draughtsman	..	..	..	..	1	—
Electrician's Mate	..	..	..	..	1	—
Free-lance Artist	..	..	..	..	1	—
General Practitioner	..	..	..	..	1	—
Housewife	..	..	..	..	—	6
Insurance Agent	..	..	..	..	1	—
Lighterman	..	..	..	..	1	—
Lorry Driver	..	..	..	..	2	—
Merchant Seaman	..	..	..	..	1	—
Painter and Decorator	..	..	..	..	1	—
Pilot	..	..	..	..	1	—
Secretary	..	..	..	..	—	1
Scholar	..	..	..	..	2	1
Shop Assistant	..	..	..	..	—	2
Tiler	..	..	..	..	1	—
Timekeeper	..	..	..	..	1	—
Toolmaker's Apprentice	..	..	..	..	1	—
Typist	..	..	..	..	—	1
Vehicle Delivery Driver	..	..	..	..	—	1
Children under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	1	2
No occupation	..	..	..	..	—	1
					<hr/> 19	<hr/> 16

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

There were 7 deaths registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This gives a death rate of .14 per 1,000 population for all forms of tuberculosis.

The following table compares the figures for 1957 with those of previous years :—

Year.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.
1948	23	.54	2	.05	.58
1949	24	.55	2	.05	.60
1950	14	.32	—	—	.32
1951	11	.25	2	.04	.29
1952	11	.24	1	.02	.26
1953	11	.24	1	.02	.26
1954	9	.19	2	.04	.23
1955	9	.19	—	—	.19
1956	4	.08	1	.02	.10
1957	7	.14	—	—	.14

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

The names of 53 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons :—

Deaths	..	..	..	..	6
Left the District	..	..	..	..	24
Recovered	..	..	..	..	19
Lost sight of	..	..	..	..	1
Diagnosis not Confirmed	..	..	..	..	1
Refused Public Medical Treatment	..	..	..	..	2
					53

Five hundred and seventy-nine persons remained on the Register at the 31st December, 1957. They consist of the following :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	307	232	539
Non-Pulmonary	19	21	40
			579

ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL AND SANATORIA.

Twenty patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted during the year. There has been a continued improvement in obtaining early admission to hospital and sanatoria, and the delay in obtaining admission for patients needing Thoracic Surgery has been considerably reduced.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

A substantial number of children have been vaccinated with B.C.G.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Dr. C. D. Routh, the Medical Officer in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, has kindly supplied the following statistics:—

<i>New Patients—Gravesend.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	1	2	3
Gonorrhoea	17	8	25
Non-Gonococcal Urethritis (Males only)	34	—	34
Non-Venereal	27	12	39
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	79	22	101

Total No. of New Patients from all areas	..	..	..	297
Total No. of attendances from all areas ..	..	..	..	1,549
Total No. of attendances from Gravesend	..	..	..	672

Discharged cured (all districts) :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	5	1	6
Gonorrhoea	36	2	38
Non-Venereal	126	22	148
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	167	25	192

There were no defaulters from the Gravesend area in 1957.

CLEANLINESS, GOOD HEALTH AND ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors have been active in their educative work in regard to cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

The work of disinfestation of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority infested rooms being sprayed with an insecticide.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request and the cost of the work is charged to the persons concerned.

Five houses were disinfested by the Health Department during the year.

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, situated in Swan Yard, provides facilities for six bodies and there is a well equipped post-mortem room.

During the year, 121 bodies were received and 121 post-mortem examinations performed.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

H.M. Coroner has kindly supplied the following information :—

Total number of inquests	..	..	32
Number of inquests without post mortems			—
Number of post mortems without inquests			90

Verdicts :—

Accidental deaths	..	..	..	22
Suicides	..	..	..	7
Found drowned	..	..	..	—

Other Verdicts :—

1. Natural causes.
2. Adjourned under Section 20 of the Coroner's Amendment Act, 1926 and not resumed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER

	Date taken.	B. Coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.	Faecal B. Coli per 100 ml.	Remarks.
1. Leith Park Road, Gravesend.				
(a) well (untreated)	21.1.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.2.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.3.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	15.4.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.5.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.6.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	23.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	28.8.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.9.57	2	1	Highly satisfactory
	30.9.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	21.10.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.11.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	16.12.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
(b) Reservoir (treated)	21.1.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.2.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.3.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	15.4.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.5.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.6.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	22.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	28.8.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.9.57	1	None	Satisfactory
	30.9.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	21.10.57	2	None	Satisfactory
	18.11.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	16.12.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

	Date taken.	<i>B. Coli</i> (presumptive) per 100 ml.	<i>Faecal B. Coli</i> per 100 ml.	Remarks.
(c) Domestic Supplies (treated)	21.1.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.2.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.3.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	15.4.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.5.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.6.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	23.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	28.8.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.9.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	21.10.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.11.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	16.12.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
(d) Drinking Fountain	3.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	3.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
2. HIGHAM SUPPLY. Domestic supplies (treated)	21.1.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	20.2.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.3.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	15.4.57	18	None	Satisfactory
	20.5.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.6.57	2	None	Satisfactory
	25.7.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	28.8.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.9.57	None	None	Satisfactory
	21.10.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	18.11.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	16.12.57	None	None	Highly satisfactory

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF DRINKING WATER.

	<i>Leith Park Road Well.</i>				<i>Leith Park Road Reservoir.</i>
Date taken				1.10.57	1.10.57
Appearance				Clear	Slightly turbid
Odour				Nil	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides				23	23
Nitrogen in Nitrates				10.0	10.0
Saline Ammonia				Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia				0.01	0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours				0.08	0.08
Hardness, total				320	318
Hardness, permanent				60	53
Total solid matter				433	424
Microscopical examination				Unimportant	Slight deposit of chalk

Remarks : Both samples were in a satisfactory condition and suitable for diatetic use.

*Note :—*The numerical results are expressed in parts per million.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER.

<i>Date taken.</i>	<i>Where taken.</i>	<i>B. Coli (presumptive) per 100 ml.</i>	<i>Faecal B. Coli per 100 ml.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
22.5.57	Deep end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Shallow end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Paddling pool	None	None	Highly satisfactory
18.6.57	Deep end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Shallow end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Paddling pool	None	None	Highly satisfactory.
3.7.57	Deep end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Shallow end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Paddling pool	None	None	Highly satisfactory
28.8.57	Deep end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Shallow end	None	None	Highly satisfactory
	Paddling pool	None	None	Highly satisfactory

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Data extracted from the Analyst's monthly reports was also supplied to the Thameside Joint Committee in the form shown in the following tables.

(See notes at end of tables for details of abbreviations).

Site : Dashwood Lane, Nurseries.

Month	Rain mm.	pH. Value	Deposit (grams per 100 square metres)								
			TWIM	S/CS ₂	Ash	OCM	TWSM	Ca	Cl	SO ₄	TS
1956											
Oct.	34.00	7.53	294	1	242	51	396	82	29	149	690
Nov.	13.21	7.16	341	1	261	79	463	92	27	177	804
Dec.	52.84	6.22	312	1	263	48	385	73	39	167	697
1957											
Jan.	17.52	6.64	171	1	135	35	247	42	35	98	418
Feb.	59.64	6.74	171	2	143	26	290	52	29	127	462
March	19.88	7.00	202	2	155	45	169	30	18	78	372
Total	197.09	41.29	1491	8	1199	284	1950	371	177	796	3443
Mean	32.85	6.88	248	1	200	47	325	62	29	133	574

1957											
April	4.57	7.78	284	4	215	66	156	25	18	58	440
May	22.23	8.08	368	4	261	103	241	43	24	66	608
June	13.08	8.18	488	4	391	94	252	48	25	87	741
July	74.81	9.72	826	10	581	234	576	110	47	162	1401
Aug.	36.75	8.54	703	4	513	187	416	76	38	115	1119
Sept.	58.59	7.50	342	3	260	80	365	63	38	105	707
Total	210.03	49.80	3011	29	2221	764	2006	365	190	593	5016
Mean	35.01	8.30	501	5	370	127	334	61	31	99	836

Site : Swimming Pool.

Deposit (grams per 100 square metres)											
Month	Rain mm.	pH. Value	TWIM	S/CS ₂	Ash	OCM	TWSM	Ca	Cl	SO ₄	TS
1956											
Oct.	31.84	7.50	308	3	236	70	404	82	35	164	712
Nov.	10.39	7.35	377	2	266	109	474	99	33	195	851
Dec.	52.50	5.90	315	4	241	71	361	61	49	152	676
1957											
Jan.	19.08	6.70	233	2	178	52	240	38	38	93	472
Feb.	59.61	6.82	248	3	200	46	358	68	37	153	606
March	20.92	6.96	305	2	232	71	292	59	28	119	597
Total	194.34	41.23	1786	16	1353	419	2129	407	220	876	3914
Mean	32.39	6.87	298	3	225	70	355	68	37	146	652

1957											
April	6.31	7.58	256	5	196	55	182	29	22	61	438
May	23.03	7.48	322	4	243	75	240	41	29	70	562
June	16.84	8.24	415	4	314	97	276	53	29	82	691
July	68.69	8.20	487	11	320	157	547	95	53	154	1035
Aug.	42.37	8.12	396	3	311	82	416	95	47	124	811
Sept.	58.95	7.38	333	3	258	72	430	76	45	132	763
Total	216.19	47.00	2209	30	1642	538	2091	389	225	623	4300
Mean	36.03	7.83	368	5	273	89	348	65	37	104	716

Abbreviations :—

- TWIM—Total water insoluble matter.
- S/CS₂—Soluble in carbon bisulphide.
- OCM—Other combustible material.
- TWSM—Total water soluble matter.
- Ca—Calcium.
- Cl—Chloride.
- SO₄—Sulphur calculated as Sulphate.
- TS—Total solids.

Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method.

Estimated as sulphate and reported as weight of Sulphur Trioxide in milligrammes per 100 sq. cm. per day.

Site	1956 Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1957 Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Sum.	Mean
Dashwood Nurseries	1.41	2.52	1.49	1.38	1.31	0.92	9.03	1.51
Swimming Pool	1.60	2.84	2.16	1.67	1.93	1.40	11.60	1.93

	1957 April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Sum.	Mean
Dashwood Nurseries	1.14	0.86	0.71	0.018	1.74	0.95	5.418	0.90
Swimming Pool	1.61	0.91	0.95	0.86	1.16	1.06	6.55	1.09

